

## CHAPTER 2      ALTERNATIVES

*This chapter describes the range of alternatives, including the Preferred Alternative and No Action alternative, formulated to address the purpose of and need for the proposed project. These alternatives were developed by the IDT through the value analysis workshop.*

### **2.1 Alternative A: No Action Alternative**

CEQ regulations (40 CFR 1502.14) require the assessment of the No Action alternative in NEPA documents. The No Action alternative provides a baseline against which to measure the impacts of the other proposed alternatives.

Under Alternative A (No Action alternative), the Westervelt House would not be renovated as administrative space and the new maintenance and curatorial facility would not be constructed. Day-to-day operations at the Park would continue under current conditions.

### **2.2 Alternative B: Renovate Westervelt House and Construct a Curatorial and Maintenance Facility (Preferred Alternative)**

The NPS proposes to build a curatorial and maintenance facility on the recently acquired land known as the Westervelt-DiNapoli-Lecher property (Figure 2-1). In addition, the NPS proposes to renovate the Westervelt House for administrative offices for use by NPS staff and the Weir Farm Trust. The proposed curatorial facilities would house current and future donor collections under museum standard conditions outlined in DO #24, *NPS Museum Collections Management*. The proposed curatorial facility would be approximately 4,350 square feet.

The proposed maintenance facility would allow the NPS to remove maintenance equipment from the Historic Core where it is stored now. This would enhance visitor experience at the Historic Core and reduce pedestrian conflicts and safety issues. The maintenance facility would be approximately 7,675 square feet, with an additional 1,925 square feet of external storage space.

The proposed project for the curatorial and maintenance facilities would include constructing a 1,620 linear-foot access road to the facilities and parking for roughly 25 vehicles. Electric power and communications for this facility would be run underground along the access road. Any future new electrical or communications services will tee off the line on the access road: no new lines would cut into the property. The curatorial and maintenance facilities overall facility would be served by a well and on-site septic system. The Westervelt House has its own septic system and well (Duffy, 2003).

Renovating the Westervelt House would allow NPS to move the Weir Farm Trust and the NPS administrative staff from the Burlingham House in the Historic Core to the Westervelt House. This would free the Burlingham House for use of the Artists in Residence Program, in keeping

with goals outlined in Park's GMP. Outside site improvements to the Westervelt House would include parking expansion for a few spaces and modifications necessary to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA). Interior renovation would include carpentry work, installations needed to meet the requirements of the ADA, a fire suppression system, alarm systems, a telecommunications system, and mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (NPS, 1995; 2003a).

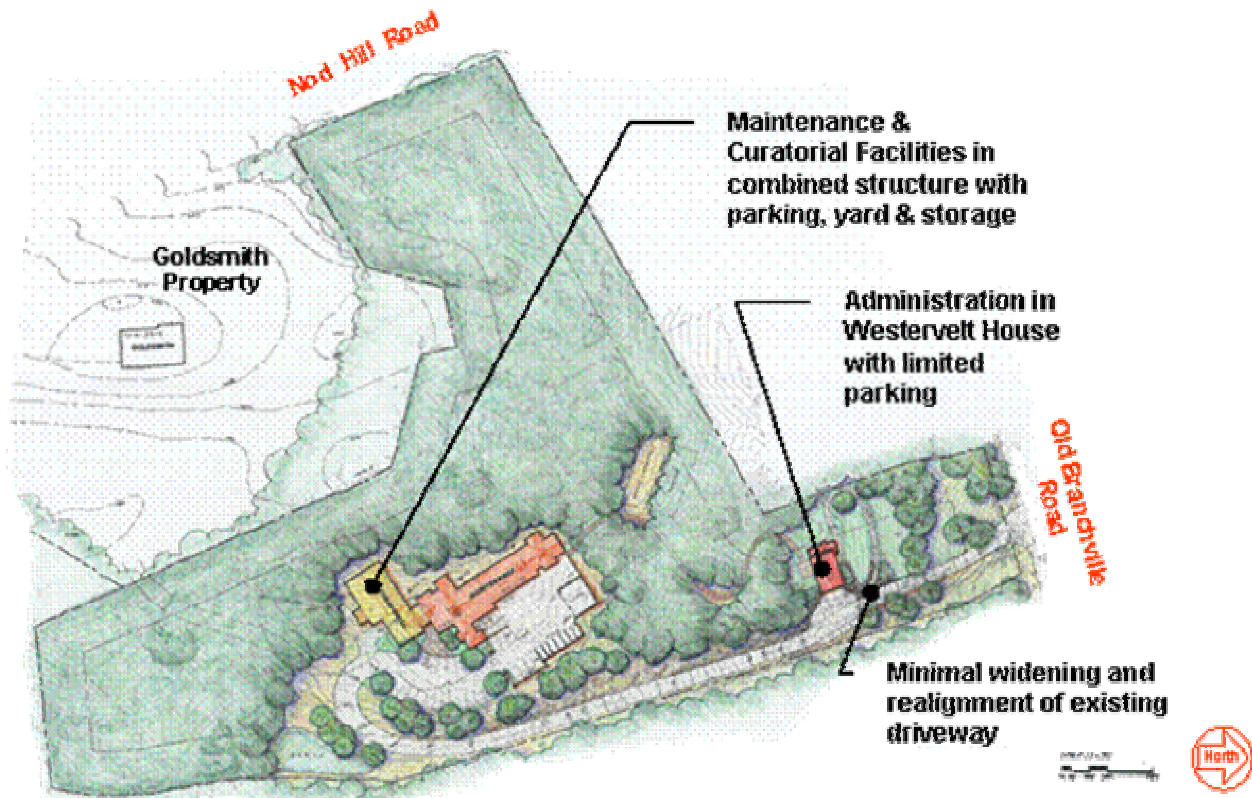


Figure 2-1. Preferred Alternative

## 2.3 Mitigation Measures of the Preferred Alternative

During construction activities, standard best management practices (BMPs), such as those described in *Connecticut's Guidelines for Soil and Erosion Control* (2002), would be implemented. Implementation of these BMPs would control or reduce potential adverse impacts from soil erosion, surface water runoff, and sedimentation. In addition to these measures, other measures would be implemented to minimize or avoid adverse impacts on environmental resources as a result of implementation of the Preferred Alternative. Table 2-1 lists these other measures according to the resource area affected. The NPS would implement these measures as part of the Preferred Alternative.